



*Newsletter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

Volume XXII Number 1

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

Jan 23, 2016

Brothers,

I am privileged to have been elected as your Camp Commander. I follow in the footsteps of a long lineage of dedicated men who have championed our cause and persevered to keep the spirit of the G.A.R. alive.

We now take our order into another year with hopes and aspirations of growing our order and making all we do relevant to our current culture.

This will be no easy task. We are experiencing a decline in membership and an inhibiting decline in meeting attendance, a common malady these days amongst non-profit and patriotic organizations.

So please, as we enter this new year, set aside that 2nd Saturday of each even-numbered month and join us at our new venue, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy, San Diego (Mira Mesa) and enjoy the camaraderie, dine with us and offer your opinions and comments.



Neither myself nor our leadership can solve all the issues that now undermine our order, but I strongly believe in the power of the collective group, brainstorming, if you please, to produce viable solutions.

"The more, the merrier!"

Looking forward to serving you.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John C. Finch



*above, PCinC Tad Campbell administers Oath of Office*

*Below, Camp Commander John, gavel in hand, addresses Camp 21*

2015 CAMP OFFICERS

Commander .....John Finch  
619-426-4906 jan27@cox.net  
Sr. Vice Comdr.....Tom Helmantoler PCC  
858-566-0012.....thelmantoler@gmail.com  
Jr. Vice Comdr.....Peter Huelsenbeck  
760-728-3769 petenikki@hughes.net  
Secretary ..... John A. May  
2001 Lee Ct.  
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760-994-5959 cbadjohnny@gmail.com  
Treasurer .....John A. May  
Council .....Jerry Sayre PDC  
760-728-1444 cod26ia@icloud.com  
Council .....Dave Allyn  
619-561-8581 svrsuvcw@yahoo.com  
Council ..... Will Tisch PCC  
619-448-4818 tis346@cox.net  
Chaplain .....Dave Allyn  
Counselor .....Andrew Brooks  
Patriotic Instructor .....Jerry Sayre  
CW Mem. Officer .....David Shaffer  
760-747-0853 djmules@sbcglobal.net  
Eagle Scout Coord.....Deane Poole PCC  
Graves Registration .....John May  
Color Bearer .....Brian Bingham  
Guide.....open  
Guard.....open  
Historian.....Will Tisch PCC  
Quartermaster ..... open  
Signals Officer .....Jerry Sayre, PDC  
SVR Rep. ....ILT Tom Helmantoler PCC  
858-566-0012 thelmantoler@gmail.com

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**THE GENERAL** is the official newsletter of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It's published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It's also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from *The General* with attribution. Brief articles are invited and most appreciated: send to Newsletter Editor listed above: space limitations may require editing.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address above. Failure to notify Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

**CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY.** If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to Dave Allyn at: svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

**SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR)** is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. You need not be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested SUVCW Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.



Our Camp 21 Compassionate Ladies by Tom Helmantoler PCC

At the December Christmas Party hosted by JVC Peter Huelsenbeck and his wife, Nikki, the Ladies of Camp 21 worked on the Homeless Charity Drive, while the Brothers met to elect new officers. Working on the drive were Nikki Huelsenbeck, Kim Sayre, Brenda Boucher, Gay Allyn, Sandy Helmantoler, Jan Shaffer, Mary Lee, and Eileen Tisch. The plan was to see blue bags of good for homeless people that they could use. This included toiletries, water, new socks, food, and paper goods. They were placed in waterproof small bags, and divided up as the ladies chose for distribution. Approximately 100 were assembled. A nice proportion of the total were donated to the Brother Benno's Foundation in Oceanside for early Christmas presents to their clients. The activity, all organized by the Ladies, was considered a success, as was the Christmas Party. Thanks to all who contributed.



Above L; putting items into bags,

Above R; the team portrait

At Left, Emelia Campbell, daughter of PCinC Tad and ASUVCW PNP Rachele Campbell displays a completed bag



Below; PCC Tom Helmantoler with Brother Benno's associate receiving our Ladies donation



## Camp Announcements and Calendar

### 130th Annual Department Encampment Mar 4-5, 2016

DSVC Dean Enderlin announced November 29th details of the 130th Annual Dept. of California and Pacific Encampment, to be held at the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Hotel, 321 Bercut Dr. Sacramento, CA. for Friday evening and all day Saturday, Mar 4-5, 2016. All information and registration forms are on the Dept. webpage at:

<http://www.suypac.org/encampment.html>

**Time to register is short; if you are planning to go you must access the forms, then send fees and forms to Dean Enderlin before Saturday, January 30th. Make checks payable to: "SUVCW Dept. of California and Pacific" mail to; DSVC Dean Enderlin, 2950 Lake County Highway, Calistoga, CA. 94515**

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* = SVR participation)	Time, Day, Month,Year	Contact Person(s)
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	FEB 13, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	CC John Finch
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	FEB 27, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
130 th Dept. Encampment, Hawthorn Suites, 321 Bercut Drive Sacramento, CA. For Res. Call 916.441.1200	MAR 4-5 2016 Fri Eve-All Day Sat	DSVC Dean Enderlin 707.942.4470
* Memorial Day ceremony, Fallbrook Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1300 Alturas Rd	MAY 28, 2016 Sat @ 10:30	PDC Jerry Sayre
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	MAY 28, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
* Memorial Day ceremony, El Cajon Cemetery, 2080 Dehesa Rd, supporting El Cajon Elks Lodge 1812	MAY 29 Sun @ 2:00 pm	PCC Deane Poole/CC John Finch
Memorial Day ceremony, Vet's Assoc. of N. County, 1617 Mission Ave, Oceanside	May 30, 2016 Mon @ 10:00 am	John May
* Memorial Day ceremony, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 3751 Market St. San Diego	MAY 30, 2016 Mon @ 12:30 pm	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	APR 9, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	JUN 11, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	AUG 13, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 pm	Cc John Finch
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	AUG 27,, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
* Huntington Beach Civil War Days reenactment,	SEP 3-4, 2015 Sat 8—4; Sun 9-4	PDC Jerry Sayre/CC John Finch
Camp Meeting, Mimi's Restaurant, 10788 Westview Pkwy. San Diego.	OCT 8, 2016 Sat @ 3:00 PM	CC John Finch
* Veterans Service, SVR Color Guard, San Diego Veterans Memorial Museum, 2115 Park Blvd	NOV 26, 2016 Sat @ 1130	1st LT Tom Helmantoler
Camp Meeting and Annual Christmas Party, location TBD	DEC ??, 2016 Time TBD	CC John Finch

## Minutes of Meeting Held December 12, 2015

Present: Brothers David Allyn, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Peter Huelsenbeck, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Dave Shaffer, and guest Tad Campbell, Past Commander-In-Chief.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Deane Poole at 2:25pm at the home of Br. Peter Huelsenbeck, Fallbrook, California. The opening prayer was offered by D. Allyn and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by PCinC Tad Campbell.

### I. Honored Attendees

Past Commander-In-Chief Tad Campbell was in attendance to serve as Installing Officer.

### II. Announcements

1. none.

### III. New Members

none.

### IV. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved (Helmantoler/Sayre).

### V. Officers' Reports

Sec. J. May reported no correspondence. Treas. J. May reported a Camp balance of \$2937.59, of which \$1013 is in the Minter's Ranch fund.

### VI. Committee Reports

none

### VII. S.V.R. Report

none

### VIII. Upcoming Events

1. Next Camp Meeting, Sat., Feb. 13, 3pm at Mimi's Restaurant.

### IX. Old Business

none

### X. New Business

1. New Camp Commander J. Finch expressed thanks to all for their support and reminded members to participate as much as possible in Camp meetings and activities.

### XI. Members' Minutes

none

### XII. Program

none.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Allyn and Cmdr. Finch adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John May, Secretary

*Ed. Note: after the meeting the camp's Brothers, spouses, & family enjoyed a delicious pot luck meal, and fellowship as has been our tradition for years. This year—for the first time—we added a gift exchange followed by a spirited game of Pictionary, which we all enjoyed.*



A sampling of photos from Kim Sayre of our Dec meeting and annual Christmas Party at the home of Peter and Nikki Huelsenbeck, including the installation of Camp officers for 2016 by PCinC Tad Campbell. We all had a fine time of fellowship, food, and fun at the Huelsenbeck's beautiful home in Fallbrook. We are grateful for the blessings of 2015 and we pray this new year—2016, will be even better. To everyone who helped make this party/meeting a success, we extend our gratitude and thanks !

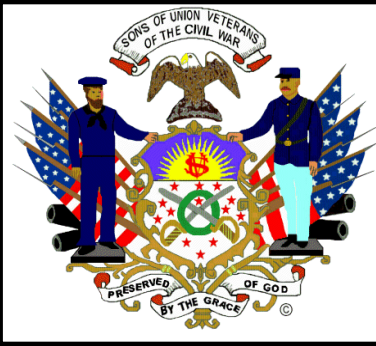


Pittenger Camp Scrapbook



Center; grave marker, Miramar Nat'l Cemetery, of our deceased brother, William "Bill" Peck, aka "Mr. Lincoln"  
Surrounding photos are from our Dec. meeting at Nikki and Peter Huelsenbeck's home showing brothers opening gifts drawn and exchanged (stolen!) which was great fun !  
Upper Left; Tad & Rachele Campbell  
Upper Center; Deane & Brenda Poole  
Upper Right; John Finch,  
Far Left; Tom & Sandy Helmantoler, Nikki Huelsenbeck  
Lower Left; Jerry Sayre and Peter Huelsenbeck  
Lower Right; John Finch, Mary & John May





No New Members have been reported since our last edition. Please do all you can to assure the continuance of our Order by talking it up to relatives and friends. Unless you ask you'll likely not discover who may be descended from a Union Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Revenue Cutter Veteran of the American Civil War. There are millions out there !

**IN THE NEWS:**

**ILLINOIS Springfield:**

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum here placed song books, sheet music and other resources online. There are more than 740 song sheets, song books and pieces of sheet music on the [www.ChroniclingIllinois.org](http://www.ChroniclingIllinois.org) website.

*Courtesy of Rosemary Lowe*

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego & is open to the public. For further information, contact Pres. Dave Tooley 858-672-2593 or on the Web at [www.sdcwrt.org](http://www.sdcwrt.org)

**January in Civil War History, Events by Date**

**January 1**

- 1862. Battle of Port Royal Island, SC.
- 1863. Emancipation Proclamation takes effect.

**January 2**

- 1863. Third day of Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro).

**January 5**

- 1861. Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan (Mobile Bay) taken over by Confederate troops.

**January 7**

- 1865. Lincoln relieves General Butler of command.

**January 8**

- 1863. Battle of Springfield, MO.

**January 9**

- 1861. Jefferson Davis named President of Confederacy.

**January 10**

- 1863. Union Navy bombards Galveston, TX.

**January 12**

- 1862. Union, under General Ambrose Burnside, attempts naval mission to gain control of North Carolina. Severe weather results in mission failure.

**January 13**

- 1865. Union naval forces under Admiral Porter attack Fort Fisher, NC.

**January 14**

- 1864. Union troops force Longstreet retreat near Dandridge, TN.

**January 16**

- 1865. Robert E. Lee assumes command of all Confederate armies.

**January 17**

- 1863. Grant assumes personal command of Vicksburg campaign.
- 1864. Battle of Dandridge, TN. Longstreet's attack forces Union to pull back to New Market.

**January 18**

- 1862. Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's exhausted troops, after having twice attempted attack on Cumberland, Maryland, make winter quarters at Bath.

**January 19**

- 1862. Battle of Mill Springs, KY. Union victory destroys Confederate defenses in Kentucky.

**January 20**

- 1863. Burnside's Mud March.

**January 22**

- 1864. Ensign James J. Russell of USS Restless captures Confederate blockade runner William A. Kain.

**January 25**

- 1863. Lincoln names General Joseph Hooker as commander of Army. January 26
- 1862. General P.G.T. Beauregard named second-in-command in Tennessee (under Albert Sidney Johnston).

**January 27**

- 1862. Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 demanding action from Union forces.
- 1864. Battle of Fair Garden, TN. By the end of the day, Confederate troops are defeated.

**January 28**

- 1864. Union cavalry under General Samuel D. Sturgis pursues Confederate troops after first day's fighting at Fair Garden but suffers severe casualties and, threatened by approaching Confederate reinforcements, withdraws.

**January 29**

- 1862. Confederate spy Belle Boyd captured and sent to Washington prison.

**January 30**

- 1862. USS Monitor launched in New York.

**January 31**

- 1863. Confederate naval forces sink two Union ships guarding Charleston harbor.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 38,500 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org), the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

**OUR NEXT MEETING: Saturday February 13, 2016 3:00pm**

**SAT 13 FEB, 2016 3:00 PM**

***LOCATION***

**Mimi's Café Restaurant  
10788 WESTVIEW PKWY.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92126**

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION:**

From the North: take I-15 South to Mira Mesa Blvd, turn right, take first left, Mimi's is visible from Mira Mesa Blvd.

From the South: take I-15 North to Mira Mesa Blvd, turn left go under freeway, Mimi's is visible from Mira Mesa Blvd.

From anywhere in San Diego County: take whatever road will get you to the Mira Mesa Blvd exits off I-15, then follow above directions.

Restaurant phone number: **858-566-6667**

**For personalized directions go to  
<http://mimiscafe.com>**

***Our Program***

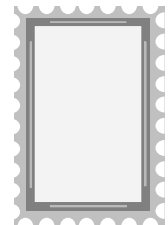
This is new Camp Commander, John Finch's inaugural meeting; come be a part of our discussion and stay for a good meal at Mimi's Café – Hope to see you there !

The General

**The General**



Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21  
Dave Allyn, Newsletter Editor  
13460 Hwy. 8 Bus., Spc. #61  
Lakeside, CA. 92040 - 5201



*Preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & "The Boys in Blue," 1861 - 1865*